

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANJUL 00599 141634Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 SSO-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 SS-15
INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 L-03 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /126 W
-----014965 141640Z /46

O R 141330Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5425
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BANJUL 0599

DEPT FOR AF/W AND IO/UNP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PORG GA UNDP
SUBJ: GAMBIAN CANDIDACY FOR UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. CHARGE HAS JUST RECEIVED FOLLOWING URGENT LETTER, DATED APRIL 14, FROM MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY, EBOU TAAL, REQUESTING US SUPPORT FOR GAMBIA'S ELECTION TO UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

2. QUOTE
14TH APRIL 1978
MEA/5127/VOL.4/(74T)

THE GAMBIA HAS APPLIED FOR ELECTION TO THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN NEW YORK.

THIS IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNDP AS ONE OF THE LARGEST AID DONORS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM, AND OF THE REALITY THAT THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IS THE POLICY MAKING BODY OF THE PROGRAMME
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANJUL 00599 141634Z

AND ITS BUDGET CONTROLLER. ALL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL AID PROGRAMMES SPONSORED BY THE UNDP HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL.

AS YOU KNOW, DURING THIS PERIOD OF REPEATED DROUGHT, WITH NO END TO THE PHENOMENON IN SIGHT, THE GAMBIA, WILL HAVE TO MAKE INCREASING RECOURSE TO INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT

DROUGHT AND THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT BOTH IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERMS. IN THIS RESPECT ONE OF THE FIRST AID AGENCIES THAT COMES TO OUR MIND IS THE UNDP. SIR DAWDA BEING THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE CILSS HEADS OF STATE CONFERENCE MEANS THE GAMBIA WILL HAVE TO PLAY A LEADING, AND AN ACTIVE ROLE AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN OUR SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATION AND THE UNDP WHICH AS ALREADY EARMARKED A CONSIDERABLE AID PROGRAMME TO THE SAHEL DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HERE TOO THE VOICE OF THE GAMBIA WILL BE EXPECTED DURING THE GOVERNING COUNCIL REVIEW SESSIONS FOR REGIONAL PROGRAMMES.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE GAMBIA IS SEEKING ELECTION TO ANY UN AGENCY OR ORGAN. OUR CHOICE OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IS IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY OF BEING ACTIVELY INVOLVED ONLY IN THOSE AREAS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA IN WHICH THERE ARE CLEAR PROSPECTS OF DIRECT MATERIAL ADVANTAGES FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT. THE AFRICAN GROUP IN NEW YORK WAS QUICK TO APPRECIATE THE STRONG MERIT OF THE GAMBIAN CANDIDATURE AND ENDORSED IT AS ONE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES ALLOCATED TO THE AFRICAN REGION. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT SOME INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT ENTIRELY PLEASED WITH THE DECISION OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON OUR CANDIDATURE.

SOME OF THESE AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTEND TO SEEK ELECTION. THEIR REASON FOR IGNORING THE DECISION OF THE AFRICAN GROUP IS SAID TO BE THAT IN THEIR VIEW THE GAMBIA, HAVING NO PERMANENT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANJUL 00599 141634Z

MISSION IN NEW YORK SO FAR, WILL NOT MAKE A GOOD MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL DUE TO REASONS OF DISTANCE.

WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE UNDP VERY SERIOUSLY. INDEED WE ARE ONE OF THE FEW FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAMME. THE REASONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MOTIVATED OUR CANDIDATURE ARE CRUCIAL FOR US AND IF WE ARE ELECTED WE SHALL GO TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN THE SAME SPIRIT. THE QUESTION OF DISTANCE IS NO MAJOR PROBLEM. THE COUNCIL MEETS TWICE A YEAR ORDINARILY IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA. WE WILL FIND NO DIFFICULTY IN SENDING APPROPRIATE DELEGATIONS TO THESE MEETINGS. MEANWHILE THE PROCESS OF HAVING A REPRESENTATION IN THE US/UN IS WELL IN TRAIN, AND AN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ACCREDITED TO WASHINGTON.

I HAVE GONE IN THIS DETAIL IN ORDER TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO CONVEY A REQUEST FROM US FOR ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE GAMBIA CANDIDATURE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT. PERMIT ME TO ALSO REQUEST THAT YOUR DELEGATION CONSIDERS PROMOTING OUR CANDIDATURE AMONG OTHER DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE ECOCOC MEETING. THE ELECTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT WEEK. I NEED HARDLY MENTION THAT WE ARE RELYING RATHER HEAVILY ON THE VERY SPECIAL NATURE AND INCREASING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EXIST

BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR WISHES
ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASSION.

YOURS SINCERELY, /SIGNED/ E. M. TAAL, PERMANENT SECRETARY
UNQUOTE

3. CHARGE INFORMED TAAL THAT USUAL USG POSITION IN SUCH MATTERS
IS TO SUPPORT CANDIDATE SELECTED BY COUNTRY'S REGIONAL GROUP.
TAAL SAYS AFRICAN GROUP SUPPORTS THE GAMBIA. ACTING UNDER
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HASSUM CEESAY LEAVES
BANJUL FOR NEW YORK APRIL 15. HE IS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE
GAMBIAN POSITION, HAS ATTENDED OTHER UN SESSIONS IN NEW YORK,
AND PLANS TO CONTACT USUN EARLY NEXT WEEK. WYGANT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANJUL00599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0141
Format: TEL
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780458/aaaabwyp.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec54a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2971289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAMBIAN CANDIDACY FOR UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL
TAGS: PGOV, PORG, GA, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec54a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014